the figure was painted or laid in (to use an artist's phrase) in vitrified colours, of course immoveable; then it had been finished, to a deep and full tone of colour, completely in varnish, which is now, and has been for some years, rapidly disappearing; and if the varnish colour was completely removed, the window would be like a vision of its former self. Upon inquiry, I came to the following conclusion as to the cause of many windows, painted about the same period, being in this lamentable state.

Until within a very few years, it was the constant and almost undeviating practice for gentlemen and committees to give commissions for stained-glass windows to men in various businesses, and *not* to the artists by whom the windows were to be painted,—the painter being usually kept in profound ignorance as to its destination, and the person for whom it was painted, lest, by the artist becoming known, the orders should flow into his hands. I have had applications to paint windows, some of them after the best Italian masters, from glass-cutters, chandelier manufacturers, glaziers, upholsterers, house-painters, dealers in curiosities, ironmongers, and carpenters, all of whom had, no doubt, represented themselves as the fitting supervisors and directors of works of art. I am afraid, the grand consideration with them would be, in a majority of cases, how much per cent. could be obtained by the transaction,—their first inquiry, who will paint it for the least money; in fact, from the artist being unknown, they were enabled to give any sum they thought proper. Can the result we now witness in the two churches under consideration be marvelled at. The painter had no prospect of fame to incite him, no character to lose, and was only anxious to finish his dreary task, by *hook or by varnish*, in order to receive the beggarly reward of his toil.

To such expedients did tradesmen have recourse to prevent the patron and the artist becoming acquainted, that if the former expressed a wish to see the work in progress, he was told, to get a good work painted he had sent it to Italy, &c. And the large sums paid for works, and the small price paid to the painters, would, if stated, be incredible.

These circumstances will, I think, in part account for the wretched state of many modern windows. I am very happy to say, that the system is now much altered for the better, and a tradesman would find it difficult to get any one of repute to execute a window for him,—although there are many examples occurring at the present time, both of committees and professional men giving the preference to men in business, rather than have direct intercourse with the painter; thus checking the advancement of art, and procuring inferior works; as, until the artist feels his true position, and that his best aspirations are dependent upon the character of his works, it is hopeless to expect works of equal merit to those produced where royalty and public opinion reward the meritorious.

Under proper encouragement, there can be no doubt, that works will be transmitted to posterity equally durable and beautiful as the most celebrated examples of antiquity."

AWARDS OF OFFICIAL REFEREES.

ADDITIONS TO STRUCTURES OF THE PUBLIC BUILDING CLASS.

With regard to a building known as Otto House, and situated at North-end, Fulham, which is occupied as a private lunatic asylum, and covers more than fourteen squares, it was proposed to add thereto a building of two stories, containing four rooms. The district surveyor was of opinion that the building is occupied as a hospital, and that, being so occupied, it was to be deemed to belong to the third, or public building class; and that inasmuch as it corresponded in form, structure, and disposition with a dwelling-house, and covered more than fourteen squares, it was to be deemed a building of the extra first-rate; "and that, being a building of the extra first-rate of the third class, the thickness of the external walls of the proposed new rooms must be at the least 21½ inches, unless the official referees should otherwise appoint; and also that the floor of the passage, on both stories, must be wholly supported, constructed, formed, made, and finished fire-proof."

The builder, Mr. Poole, contended, that "the said building, inasmuch as it is not used as a hospital, or for the assemblage of persons in large numbers, or for any public purpose, but is, from the nature of its occupancy, invariably occupied by a peculiarly limited number of persons, was to be deemed to be a building of the first, or dwelling-house class; and as regards the thickness of the walls of the proposed new rooms, that such rooms being to be built against a substantial external wall of the existing building, and that no part of such walls (except for the formation of one doorway in each story) is to be removed, the said rooms are to be distinctly rated, and constitute an attached building of the second rate of the first class."

The award of the referees was,—"That the building in question is a 'hospital' within the meaning and for the purposes of the Metropolitan Buildings Act, and that it corresponds in form, structure, and disposition, with a dwelling-house; and inasmuch as it so conforms, and moreover covers more than fourteen squares, that it is a building of the extra first-rate of the third or public building class; and with regard to the proposed structure (of four rooms), we do hereby determine and award, that the same is an addition to the said extra first-rate building, and not an attached building, within the meaning of the Metropolitan Buildings Act; but inasmuch as it contains two stories only, and having regard to the height of such stories, and inasmuch as regarding its connection with the main building it is structurally an independent building, not exceeding in area a building of the second-rate of the dwelling-house class, and having regard to the circumstances that by schedule C, part 2, walls of the thickness of thirteen inches only are prescribed for second-rate buildings of the first class, we do hereby approve of the proposed walls being built of the thickness of thirteen inches only—but we are of opinion that in building the said addition, it will be the duty of the said Henry Poole to make the floors of the passages between the main building and the proposed addition to the building wholly of fire-proof materials, and to make a staircase to lead to the passages in the upper story of such addition to the building, in like manner wholly of fire-proof materials."

RAISING ON OLD WALLS.

With regard to a building at the corner of Great Russell-street and Tottenham-court-road, it was proposed by Mr. E. B. Lamb to raise the front external walls to a height not exceeding seven feet above the level of the existing walls. This was objected to by the district surveyor, he being of opinion that the walls were not sufficiently secure to allow of the raising "the wall next Tottenham-court-road, which is built upon a wood brestsummer (as is the other wall), overhanging to the extent of four inches, whilst the wall fronting to Great Russell-street shews a considerable fissure throughout its height, in the line of the wall fronting the house in question from the adjoining house, No. 2, Great Russell-street."

Mr. Lamb was of opinion that the walls were sufficiently secure to allow of the raising thereof, and that such walls being of the thickness prescribed by the said Act, it is not competent to the district surveyor to object thereto.

The district surveyor contended, "that before any building be raised, it is the duty of the district surveyor to object thereto, if he is of opinion that such raising ought not to be done; and that it is competent to him to object, whether such building be an already or a hereafter-built building; and that by the provision in section 31 of the said Act, with regard to buildings already built, it is not intended to limit the power of objecting to walls of insufficient thickness of buildings already built, but that it is thereby intended to provide that already built buildings may not be raised under any circumstances, unless with the consent of the district surveyor; and that under no circumstances may walls of insufficient thickness of buildings already built be raised to an additional height exceeding ten feet."

When the referees surveyed the building, they found the walls of the building had been already raised to the proposed additional height.

Their award was, first, with regard to the jurisdiction of the district surveyor generally, under the 31st section of the Metropolitan Buildings Act, that although the walls of buildings already built may be of the thicknesses prescribed by the said Act, after any intended raising of the walls of such buildings, it will not be lawful to raise any such building if, in the opinion of the district surveyor, any such walls be not sufficiently secure to allow of such raising; and, secondly, with regard to the building in question, we hereby find and certify, determine and award, that the district surveyor has properly objected to the raising of the building in question, inasmuch as the walls of the building are not sufficiently secure, and are so defective as to be incapable of being rendered sufficiently secure to be raised upon; and we do, as required by the said requisition, direct that the walls which have been raised be forthwith taken down to the extent, at least, to which they have been raised."

METROPOLITAN.

Twenty owners and occupiers of the "dark arches" under Adelphi-terrace, amongst whom were Miss Burdett Coutts, Mr. Chaplin, M.P., Sir Edmund Antrobus, Mr. Marjoribanks, &c., were "brought up" at Bow-street, on the 12th inst., under the Paving Act, and at the instance of the Paving Committee of the parish of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, for "suffering noxious and offensive matter to accumulate in the arches," as it had done for years, causing stench and nuisance in their most aggravated forms. The vestry clerk of St. Martin's parish, stated that so deadly was this nuisance, that even passengers from the steamboats had been suddenly seized with illness, and one had died in consequence. Mr. Lake, surgeon, said that malignant fever had lately broken out on the premises from the same cause, and had determined him and others to put the law in force. Certain parties, it was observed, had threatened law in retaliation, if their "vested rights" were interfered with by the Paving Committee; but at length the greater number of the defendants condescended to allow the committee to cleanse the premises for them, and the remainder promised to do so themselves.——At a public meeting lately held at the Western Literary and Scientific Institution, Leicester-square, Sir Charles Aldis in the chair, to consider the best means of preventing disease and pestilence in the metropolis, it was resolved, by acclamation, that the interment of the dead in the midst of the living should be prohibited by law; that no effective measures for protecting the public health will ever be carried out by irresponsible parochial boards; but that the various parochial authorities be urgently requested to do what they possibly can towards the abolition of cesspools, under Lord Morpeth's act, the frequent cleansing of streets and gully-holes, courts, yards, and alleys, *the erection of public water-closets and urinals*, and the establishment of parochial baths and wash-houses.——To the model lodging-house in St. Giles's, opened on Monday week, has been added a library of 400 volumes. Lectures also are to be given by a committee of 16 gentlemen, turn about, on some interesting and popular subject.——A number of houses in Billingsgate have been sold by auction for removal from the site of the new Coal Exchange, which is to be forthwith begun, on a plan which was exhibited in the Royal Institution, Trafalgar-square, and which will cost about 100,000*l*.——The subscriptions to the building fund for St. Mary's Hospital, Cambridge-place, Paddington, now amount to 21,2–7*l*. odds. The hospital is to be made complete for about 400 patients.——Christchurch, Greenwich, the foundation-stone of which was laid on the 2nd instant, by Mr. John Angerstein, is to be built by Messrs. Farrant and Turrel, from a design by Messrs. Brown and Kerr, of Norwich.

Damp Walls.—When damp walls proceed from *deliquescence* in the case of muriate of soda, &c., in intimate combination with the sand used for the mortar, it is merely necessary to wash the wall with a strong solution of alum. This converts the *deliquescent* salt into an *efflorescent* one, and the cure is complete. Or, alum may be added to the plaster in the first instance.—*Dr. Murray.*

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